

THE OUTPOST

U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground, Yuma, Arizona 85365

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Skillful handiwork results in award-winning wood creations

By Mark Schauer

YPG postman Zachory Woodward is an artist who has branched off into unique areas.

Though he paints and draws, Woodward's preferred medium, and first love, is wood. From freestanding figurines and framed reliefs to lamps and Christmas ornaments, he can make ordinary pieces of lumber assume the image of vibrant life.

"I'm not a whittler, I'm a wood sculptor," Woodward said. "Whittling uses just a knife, but carving uses gouges and other specialized tools."

A native of Maine, Woodward has been fascinated by the art from the time he cut a pattern with a jig saw at the tender age of five. He did his first carving at eight and by 15 won a blue ribbon in a youth competition sponsored by a local wood carving association for his

relief of a partridge hunt, complete with realistic dogs.

"My parents were very supportive because I was good at it," said Woodward.

As a teenager he worked summers on a potato farm to earn money for supplies. He began to train under master woodcarvers Thomas Côté in Maine and Robert Roy in Quebec, and from the age of 14 made wood sculpting a daily activity.

Today, Woodward continues to sculpt wood in his spare time, using his living room as a studio during the summer, and his patio during the cooler times of year. His creations are always done with hand implements like gouges and chisels, never with power tools. To be properly malleable, the wood needs to be a soft variety such as basswood, which is Woodward's preferred wood, butternut or cottonwood bark. It also must be extremely dry, which is accomplished

through lengthy air drying and not in a kiln, which can make the wood brittle. Woodward's most elaborate pieces can take more than 100 hours to complete.

"You can't add to wood once it is cut away or it breaks," said Woodward. "I like the challenge of working around this, and of figuring out how to salvage a piece if there is a problem."

The juxtaposition of delicate detail and sharp implements has led to a few injuries over the years. He has had eight stitches in his hands to close various cuts, but the hazards no longer faze him.

"Now I super glue them," he said of the cuts. "I don't even bother going to get them checked."

Though he has produced hundreds of wooden sculptures, Woodward has relatively few still in his possession. He has sold some for substantial sums of money, but has no plans of



Zack Woodward uses specialized tools to sculpt a cowboy figurine before adding a final coat of paint. He has been fascinated with the art of wood sculpting since five years of age.

PHOTO BY YOLIE CANALES

actively marketing them.

"I sell mostly by word of mouth," Woodward said. "Sometimes I give them as gifts. It is hard to let them go sometimes."

Woodward is quick to add, however, that money has

never been his motivation for engaging in the unique art.

"I do it for the love of it and because it is a dying tradition," said Woodward. "I am very passionate about it. I'll do it until I can't anymore."

YPG tests critical to saving lives on battlefield

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Year end thoughts from CSM Forbes Daniel

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Viewpoints: What are your 2012 resolutions?

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Volunteer program update

By Connie Everly, Army Volunteer Corps Coordinator (AVCC)

As stated in a recent articles, Army Community Service (ACS) has been accredited twice previously and will be going through the accreditation cycle in February 2012. The accreditation process occurs in an attempt to ensure Soldiers and Families receive the same level and quality of products and services irrespective of where they are stationed.

Authorized users of the volunteer program are Soldiers, Family members, Department of Army civilians and government contractors.

The purpose of volunteer program is to establish policies and procedures on the acceptance and management of volunteers. It describes the conditions under which volunteers may be accepted and the responsibilities of accepting officials (i.e., the activity managers where the volunteers will be volunteering), and government support provided as well as specific guidelines for the coordination of volunteer services. There are several types of volunteers and each has their own specific guidelines.

All volunteers on the installation must complete the appropriate paperwork and receive training, prior to volunteering. Not only volunteers have to be trained, but the organization points of contact, also.

The guidelines for volunteering are quite comprehensive, but manageable; however, many volunteers become

see **Volunteer** page 3

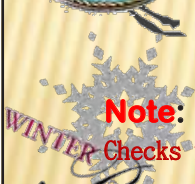
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YPG currently has several employees on the VLTP recipient list:

- Joel Burgess, YTC, exacerbation of medical condition
- Tom Cimins, Garrison, kidney transplant
- Dave Holbrook, JAG, deep brain stimulation surgery and recovery
- Audra Lemme, Mission RM, newborn son is suffering health complications

- Darrell Lewis, Mission, torn meniscus and cyst behind the right knee cap

(ACL replacement)

- Alysha Miller, Mission Plans & Ops, maternity

- Robert "Smokee" Trujillo, YTC, motorcycle accident and subsequent surgeries

Any donation will be appreciated by the recipient. You can donate as little as one hour of annual leave or as much as one half of what you accrue in a leave year, although you must be able to use "use or lose" annual leave before the end of the leave year. If you are interested in donating annual leave to your co-worker, just complete Optional Form 630-A, forward it back to the CPAC and the donation will get to the appropriate recipient. Please note CPAC can only accept donations that indicate to whom the hours are to be given - please indicate who should be given your hours. You can split the donations, as long as donations are in

full-hour increments.

Just to recap: The recipients must use all available sick and annual leave before they receive donations - donors aren't funding a new vacation plan for recipients. Donors can only

VOLUNTEER

FROM PAGE 2

overwhelmed. People say they JUST WANT TO VOLUNTEER! In order to protect the installation as well as the volunteers from any workers compensation claims, they must be official volunteers as evidenced by having completed the proper forms and having received the appropriate training.

Some examples of volunteer service areas include but are not limited to: family support, libraries and education; religious services; child and youth services; museums; natural resources (environmental);

donate annual leave; sick leave is not eligible to be donated. If the recipient doesn't use all leave donated, that leftover leave is divided up among donors and returned to them.

medical, dental, nursing (if applicable); judge advocate and so on.

For volunteers, the basic training is volunteer orientation training administered by Connie Everly, the AVCC.

For activity managers, they must receive OPOC training which are coordinate by the AVCC.

If you would like to volunteer or would like more information, you may call 328-3350 or send an email to: Connie.F.Everly.civ@mail.mil. Hours of operation are Mon-Thur., 6:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

THE OUTPOST

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VIEWPOINTS

Nothing says “new year” like a list of resolutions. For this Viewpoint, we asked members of the workforce, “What are your resolutions for 2012?”



Michelle Grawbarger
Youth Program Assistant

My resolutions are to exercise every day and eat healthier. My cholesterol is higher than it is supposed to be, so I need to eat more salads. I'm going back to school, too, and I want to stick with that.



Nicole Guidry
Desk Clerk

My new year's resolutions are to eat healthier and workout more. I want to eat more chicken and less Oreos for my long-term health. Professionally, I hope to move up to a permanent position in FMWR.

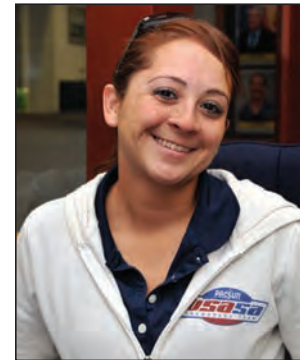
Jared Snyder
Senior Computer Specialist

I need to spend less and be more practical with my purchases. I want to cook at home instead of spending \$10 for a breakfast with \$4 worth of ingredients, and stop buying \$25 Blu-Ray discs that I'll only watch two or three times. I want to spend less time online, too.



Sandra Martinez
FMWR Assistant

I want to spend more time with my kids. They are 8 and 5, and I just want to have more mom time with them.



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Tara O'Brien
Technical Editor

My new year's resolution is to be more dedicated. I want to exercise more, eat better, work harder, and sleep longer. I'm going to have my first child this year, too, so these resolutions are especially important. I don't think I've been too delinquent, but there's always room for improvement.

Chris Hatch

Contracting Officer Representative
I want to spend more time this year doing the things I enjoy. This is only accomplished by spending less time at work and more time with my family and friends. I enjoy outdoor sports, and want to do a great deal more this year.



Producing positive vibes in the Yuma community each year

By Chuck Wullenjohn

As taxpayer-funded institutions, it is beneficial for each branch of the military to inform and educate the public about missions they perform and the sometimes expensive equipment being used. This often results in extra work, but the positive community exposure and resulting public understanding creates dividends during times of budget constraints.

In 2011, Yuma Proving Ground participated in a variety of events around Yuma with this idea in mind. They ranged from the large collection of YPG weapon systems and ground vehicles displayed at the annual Marine Corps air show last spring to the participation

of a Stryker armored vehicle in the Yuma Veterans Day parade in November. Groups of YPG Soldiers helped serve meals at Crossroads Mission last Thanksgiving and an M101A1 howitzer fired at the El Toro Bowl football game in early December. Just before Thanksgiving, members of YPG's meteorological team helped ensure the safety of the over 30 hot air balloons participating in the Colorado River Balloon Festival by providing detailed weather information each morning.

Mark Hendrickson, meteorologist, was one of two YPG workers who arrived well before dawn each morning of the balloon festival to gather on scene weather information. He explained that the team's

see **Positive** page 10



Nick McColl, meteorologist technician, demonstrates the size of one of the thousands of weather balloons released each year prior to test projects at the proving ground.

PHOTO BY MARK SCHAUER

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Helping secure the borders of a friendly Middle Eastern nation

YPG has supported detection technology testing for decades

By Chuck Wullenjohn

Yuma Proving Ground tests weapon systems and munitions for a wide variety of customers, most of whom hail from the United States. A growing number of tests, however, are conducted for customers from friendly foreign nations. Recent years have seen tests taking place for Great Britain, Canada, India and Saudi Arabia, among others.

One test customer that has been a focus of testing within the Air Combat Test Directorate for many years is the nation of Jordan. Situated in the Middle East, Jordan is a relatively small country, about one-third the size of Arizona, bordered by four nations - Syria, Iraq, Israel, and Saudi Arabia. Independent since 1946, over 90 percent of the population is Muslim, though all Jordanians are afforded freedom of religion. Jordan enjoys close relations with the United States.

A number of private firms visited the proving ground in 2007 to demonstrate border surveillance and detection technologies proposed for use along the nation of Jordan's 1700 kilometer border. Officials from Jordan were on hand to view the wares from each vendor and made the selection of DRS Technologies as prime contractor for the first 50 kilometer proof of concept.

Since that time, a great deal of YPG testing has taken place and a "virtual fence" consisting of an assortment of towers, radars and sophisticated electronic sensors to detect vehicles and people has been constructed and put into use. Tommy Gwynn, chief of the sensor test branch, says branch personnel have supported



Operated by Jordanian soldiers on a 50 kilometer section of its border, the YPG-tested "virtual fence" includes a wide variety of equipment used to detect vehicles and people crossing the border.

U.S. ARMY PHOTO

sensor detection technologies for decades, most often aboard aircraft. YPG's involvement in the border security program with Jordan began roughly five years ago with the 2007 technology demonstration at YPG and has been ongoing ever since, with a wide variety of system and requirement verification testing both within the United States and overseas. The first 50 kilometer section of the virtual fence went into use in late 2009 and is operated by Jordanian military personnel.

"Many of the individual systems that make up the larger project are commercial, off-the-shelf products,"

said Gwynn, "to save time and reduce costs. Our role has been to be the independent tester to ensure that the Jordanian government receives the best possible equipment to secure their kingdom." Members of the team have made numerous visits to Jordan since 2008.

Gwynn's team most recently visited Jordan this past September to perform a system characterization test for the purpose of providing a baseline understanding of system performance. The goal was to provide operators a technical "feel" for the capabilities of the system to guide future development.

Bert Evans, team leader in the branch, has been part of this program for two years and has visited Jordan on four occasions. He has spent long hours on the range during each visit, working side-by-side with Jordanian soldiers.

"The Jordanian people are friendly and welcoming," he says. "When each test is over, I feel I've gained a new friend, not just a work companion."

Evans explains the Yuma Proving Ground testing role as an unbiased, objective fact-finder. "We aren't looking out for the best interests of a private company or the system itself, but the soldier," he explained. "We want him or her to have the best systems in the field."

One challenge to mission success has been the language barrier, as the national language of Jordan is Arabic. Evans says, however, that many Jordanians maintain a large understanding of English.

"We depend on them to be bilingual and respect their ambition to learn and speak multiple languages. Some even carry books to help translate our words into Arabic." Evans has learned some basic Arabic words to help in communication and to show respect to the people with whom he comes in contact.

One of YPG's hallmarks in the aviation test arena is highly developed expertise in the testing of sensors. According to Test Officer Ross Gwynn, a challenge they faced was transferring their sensor knowledge from fast moving aerial sensor platforms to stationary ground sensors.

see **Borders** page 10

Life saving mine-detecting robots undergo tests at Yuma Proving Ground

By Mark Schauer

In recent years the U.S. military has brought ground penetrating land mine-detecting platforms like the Husky Mine Resistant Ambush Protected (MRAP) vehicle variant to bear against the treacherous, mine-laden topography of Afghanistan. Today, similar technology is being minimized to fit onto existing mine detection robots able to go anywhere Soldiers need them.

Improvised explosive devices get the bulk of media attention, but the danger of conventional mines to Soldiers is just as great. Though anti-personnel mines have been banned by the vast majority of the world's nations, 37 countries have not signed the treaty to cease manufacture and use of the weapons. Additionally, many countries are contaminated by devices that are decades old.

In Afghanistan, American forces have to contend with an estimated 10 million such legacy mines, as well as new devices placed by insurgents. Yuma Proving Ground has the expertise, facilities, and geographical features to test the most cutting edge technologies to defeat this threat, and is currently conducting safety evaluations on a new generation of robots that can both interrogate and detect mines and other improvised explosive devices. An offshoot of the Autonomous Mine Detection System (AMDS), the Dismounted Standoff Explosive Hazard Detection Marking Neutralization System (DSEHDMNS) program is now a rapid fielding initiative.

"This program is to remove the Soldier from using handheld detectors for the detection of mines and IEDs," said Frank Natish, Night Vision Electronic Systems Directorate branch chief at Countermine



During safety testing, uniformed Soldiers and Marines operate the robots as they would in combat areas, running the platforms down test lanes with handheld control units as data collectors stand by to record how the machine operates and where it identifies a buried threat target, as seen here.

PHOTO BY MARK SCHAUER

Technology, Fort Belvoir, Va. "With this, there is minimal fatigue compared to physically sweeping with a handheld device. If the robot misses something and runs over it, you've only lost a piece of equipment, not a Soldier."

YPG conducts testing of handheld devices and hosts the training of military working dogs and their human handlers for the mine clearance mission, yet even the best training has limits. Mine clearance is a slow, painstaking, stressful job that is physically and mentally draining for humans and working dogs even in ideal circumstances. The rigors of combat and extreme weather increase the possibility of making a deadly mistake.

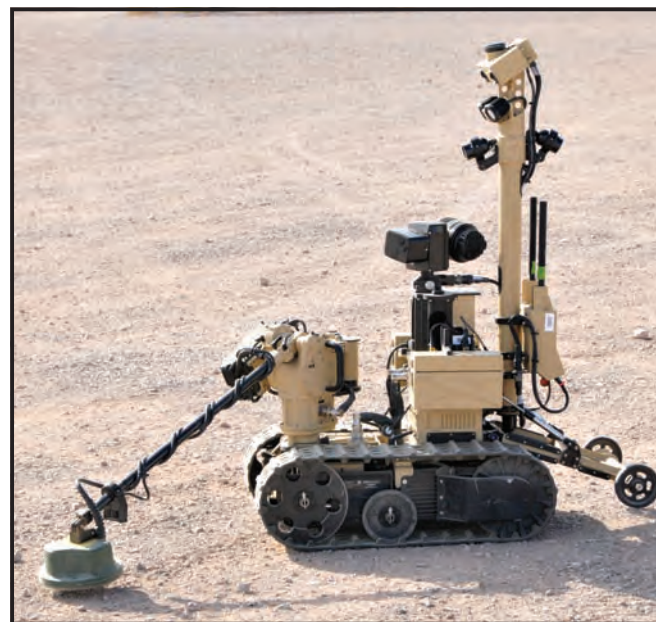
"A major problem with an individual sweeping is the possibility of an inconsistent swing with gaps in it," said Adam Haas, YPG test officer. "This technology tries to remove as

much of that as possible."

Whereas the original Talon robot has only a camera and a mechanical arm for interrogating threats, updated platforms have been modified with detection sensors that use complex

computer algorithms to detect mines and explosives, and discriminate between threats and innocuous pieces of debris.

see **Testing** page 8



Rigorous testing of mine detecting robots conducted at YPG closely simulates that of Afghanistan. This ensures the systems can successfully detect explosives and handle traversing rough, dusty terrain.

PHOTO BY MARK SCHAUER

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TESTING

FROM PAGE 7



Sgt. Pedro Arredondo operates a mine detection robot during a recent evaluation of the platform at YPG's countermine facility. "It's a good thing, because it limits the number of personnel going out to the threats," said Arredondo. "If we lose a robot, we can replace it. We can't replace a person."

PHOTO BY MARK SCHAUER

Rigorous testing at YPG in a natural environment that closely simulates that of Afghanistan not only ensures the systems can successfully detect explosives, but also that they are robust enough to handle traversing rough, dusty terrain. Given the delicate nature of the mine-detection mission, testers also want to confirm that the robots never move without a human command, for even a move of a tiny distance in the wrong circumstances could have catastrophic results.

Just as importantly, the new robots are also able to mark any threat they detect, doing so by spraying a small swath of colored dye on the ground wherever a mine is located. With a safe path available, Soldiers can then mark threats along the transit way with additional flags, or, if not in the

middle of combat, remove the threats.

During safety testing, uniformed Soldiers and Marines operate the robots as they would in combat areas, running the platforms down test lanes with handheld control units as data collectors stand by to record how the machine operates and where it identifies a buried threat. Following the conclusion of developmental testing, operational testing with Soldiers will conduct simulated missions with the robotic detection systems.

"It's good to know that the systems we test make a difference," said Haas. "The main goal of these systems is to remove the warfighter from hazardous jobs wherever we can. You can replace a robot, but you can't replace experience or the Soldier."



A Marine operates the controls for the mine detecting robots

PHOTO BY MARK SCHAUER

Yuma Proving Ground 2011 happenings

YPG Heritage Center curator Bill Heidner (left) presents a detailed statuette of a World War II infantryman to retiring museum specialist Steven Greeley as Director of Plans Training Mobilization and Security Ron Rodriguez looks on. Greeley's retirement closes a combined 27 years of Army service. Also retiring in December were meteorology technician Ken Williams, public affairs specialist Mary Flores, Plans Analysis Integrated Office chief Heywood Helms, and security guards Scotty McHenry, William Kamura, and Eseroma Maefau.

PHOTO BY MARK SCHAUER

The big hearts of YPG personnel were on display again this past Christmas, with more than 350 toys, including 18 bikes, gathered for needy youngsters. Here, Ground Combat personnel pack up the items for delivery to the Toys for Tots program. The toy drive was spearheaded by equipment specialist Monty Ahles in 2006, and has operated every year since. This year's fundraising efforts included a barbecue and dunking booth event. The spirit is infectious among donors and lasts all through the year: "I shop for toys starting in June, when the stores start closing out their prior year's stock," said test officer Heidi Still "It is a year-round effort to get the most bang for the buck."

PHOTO BY MARK SCHAUER



Garrison manager Rick Martin (left) accepts a \$400 donation to Army Community Services from Glen Villa, secretary-treasurer of International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers Local 2282, just in time for Christmas. "We'll use this donation to help offset the cost of holiday baskets we give Soldiers and their families," said Garrett Smith, Family Morale Welfare and Recreation director. "It is a great opportunity to give back to the Soldiers." Villa added that the union assists other charities and needy veterans throughout the year.

PHOTO BY MARK SCHAUER

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Sharing year end thoughts

By

Command Sgt. Maj. Forbes Daniel

Col. Reed Young, Yuma Proving Ground Commander, and I have visited many areas in the past four months and met numerous employees who do great things both for YPG and the Army Test and Evaluation Command. YPG is in combination with the Cold Regions Test Center (CRTC), Alaska, and the Tropic Regions Test Center (TRTC) in Panama, and other tropic locations have performed nearly three million direct labor hours in the conduct of the Army test mission -- a record -- and every YPG worker should be extremely proud of this accomplishment.

We have a great workforce that has the consistent aim of providing effective testing for the Army and other customers each day. Our parachute riggers, for instance, have conducted numerous test missions; one individual was selected as NCO of the Quarter both at the YPG level and ATEC level, and another played on the Army softball team, while others participated in marathons. Some of our civilians have been recognized as Civilians of the Quarter and Year at both the YPG and ATEC levels.

One of the first persons any visitor to YPG sees is a member of our police force guarding gates day and night. They have continued to provide a tremendous service to YPG. Our veterinarian and medical clinic's soldiers and NCOs were recognized for numerous NCO and Soldier of the Quarter selections and supported many YPG community programs -- we are truly grateful for their support.

If one truly wants to see extreme dedication to the Army test mission, I highly suggest taking a trip to

CRTC during the winter season where tests are conducted in extreme cold temperatures, often 40 degrees below zero, amid rugged terrain and far from civilization. These folks are professionals doing important jobs, just as the workforce at YTC and in the tropics.

The mission workforce requires lots of support throughout the year from the YPG Garrison, Civilian Personnel Advisory Center (CPAC) and Mission-Installation Contracting Command (MICC). I have personally witnessed our MICC staff work extremely hard, putting in long hours to ensure contracts are processed on time. CPAC ensures we have the right personnel to fill vacancies and works relentlessly on almost every day of the week to ensure documentation is accurate and entered into the system in a timely manner. Both CPAC and MICC are remarkably supportive organizations and tremendous assets. Another great support team is the TRAX people and all the other contractors we rely upon daily to provide great service.

As we look around, we can see the beneficial efforts of Garrison folks that have resulted in excellent roads and services on post. The transformation of YPG is evident and more projects are being completed. We are expecting the groundbreaking for construction of a new facility for the Intercontinental Hotel Group (IHG) early next year that will greatly contribute to YPG and the comfort of thousands of annual YPG visitors. In the Bachelor Enlisted Quarters, significant upgrades inside and outside the facility have taken place and are very impressive as you enter the facility.

Safety is everyone's business, and as winter visitors have returned to the area, we need to factor them into our daily commutes to and from work. We must give ourselves enough time to get to work without speeding and causing unnecessary unsafe acts. Let's slow down, plan ahead and factor in road construction as we

commute during the holidays.

As a reminder, the speed limit on post is 25 MPH and 15 MPH in school areas and housing. We expect these limits to be obeyed. We all have an active role to play in keeping our

community safe and ensuring visitors do the same.

My family and I wish you a great, healthy and wealthy 2012.

BORDERS

FROM PAGE 6

"We grew up in this field using sensors aboard aircraft, but now the sensors are stationary and the targets are moving," he said with a smile. "It was challenging, but we came up with a pretty good testing approach."

Testing at Yuma Proving Ground normally takes place amid a sanitized environment in which time-space-position data is carefully calculated, targets are tracked, and outside interference is deconflicted in advance. In Jordan, on the other hand, testing takes place in an active, dynamic border environment that requires testers to be able to distinguish important data from what

is not.

"It is a real challenge to conduct our tests in the real world," said Evans. "We meet the challenge and it's satisfying to do so. We've developed a great deal of expertise in this environment."

Another portion of the sensor test branch mission is to test sensors placed on the outside perimeters of forward operating bases (FOBs) in combat areas. There is a great deal of expertise that can be transferred back and forth between the border and FOB protection mission areas.

"Border protection is a major issue in a number of countries, including our own," said Branch Chief Tommy Gwynn. "This may very well be a future YPG growth area."

POSITIVE

FROM PAGE 5

main purpose was to gather wind information both on the surface and aloft for the safety of the pilots.

"Balloons can get up to altitudes of three to five thousand feet," he said as he prepared a weather balloon at the festival, "but it's most common to see them flying only a few hundred feet off the ground."

This was his first year at the festival, which he found an enjoyable experience. "Watching the crews inflate the balloons with hot air and then take off was quite a sight," he said.

Launching weather balloons is a routine occurrence at the proving ground. Hendrickson says Yuma Proving Ground launches more weather balloons than any other location in the world. Between five and 25 are launched each day, with a

total of 4200 being sent aloft in fiscal year 2011.

YPG's Meteorology Team falls under the organizational structure of Yuma Test Center's Optics Division. Dean Weingarten, longtime team chief, retired this past December with 22 years at YPG, introducing a variety of mission improvement processes during that time. One of his major accomplishments was upgrading sensor technology aboard the weather balloons to make them more efficient and, at the same time, save the government money. His efforts resulted in safer YPG testing, more accurate data collection, improved weather forecasting, and the availability of real-time data over the intranet.

In addition, YPG's meteorological technician Ken Wilson joined Hendrickson at the festival and also retired last month.

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About Dr. Aiello



Patrick D. Aiello, MD

Dr. Aiello received his MD degree from the University of Michigan. After completing both an Internship and Residency in Internal Medicine at the University of North Carolina, he finished a Residency in Ophthalmology at the world renowned Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota. He is board certified in both Internal Medicine and Ophthalmology.

In addition to caring for his patients at the Aiello Eye Institute, he is an examiner for the American Board of Ophthalmology, and a clinical instructor for the Midwestern School of Osteopathic Medicine in Phoenix. He is a Senior Flight Surgeon and State Air Surgeon for the Arizona National Guard.

Having performed more than 15,000 surgeries, he is regarded as one of the state's leading eye surgeons.

Aiello Eye Institute

Dr. Aiello organized the Aiello Eye Institute in Yuma in order to provide world-class eye care to the community. With a highly trained staff and associates utilizing only the latest technology and equipment, the Aiello Eye Institute provides the areas most comprehensive and patient-centered vision healthcare.



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